Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 02096 042058Z

61

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6632

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN SCUL EIND ETEL CA

SUBJECT: TIME/READER'S DIGEST/BORDER TV STATIONS TAX REGULATION

(BILL C-58)

REF: OTTAWA 1994

1. MADER, TIME BUREAU CHIEF OTTAWA, TOLD DCM JUNE 3 THAT NATIONAL REVENUE MINISTER BASFORD HAD INFORMED TIME THAT ITS MOCK-UP EDITION DID NOT MEET REQUIREMENT SINCE "ONLY 40 PERCENT OF MATERIAL" WAS DIFFERENCT FROM THAT OF US EDITION. BASFORD SAID MINIMUM OF 50 PERCENT OF CONTENT MUST BE DIFFERENT, BUT HAS STILL DECLINED ADVISE TIME WHAT CRITERIA ARE. MADER BELIEVED PRESSURES ON BASFORD FRIM DAVEY, FAULKNER, ETC. TO FUZZ UP CRITERIA WERE INCREASING. HIS ESTIMATE IS THAT BASFORD'S RULING WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY VAGUE TO ALLOW FOR SEPARATE (SUBJECTIVE, ANTI-TIME) JUDGEMENT EACH CASE.

2. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH ECON OFFICERS ON JUNE 3, OTTAWA ATTORNEY FOR BUFFALO TV STATIONS OPINED THAT SECOND READING OF BILL MAY NOT BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO SUMMER RECESS AND THUS COMMITTEE HEARINGS WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL FALL. IF THIS HAPPENS, HE SAID, BASFORD WOULD PROBABLY MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING CONTENT REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLICATIONS. HE SUGGESTED THAT BASFORD WOULD DISLIKE DOLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 02096 042058Z

ING THIS, HOWEVER, BECAUSE IT WOULD APPEAR TO PREJUDICE OUT-

COME OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS, BUT ON OTHER HAND WOULD FEEL HE MUST ACT SO AS NOT TO BE ACCUSED OF GIVING INADEQUATE NOTICE PRIOR TO PRESUMED JANUARY 1 ENTRY INTO FORCE OF BILL'S PROVISIONS.

3. COMMENT: BILL C-58 HAS NOT BEEN DEBATED IN COMMONS SINCE MAY 26. POSSIBILITY EXISTS OF SCHEDULING ONE MORE DAY ON JUNE 6 BUT IT IS NOT PRESENTLY CERTAIN THAT SECOND READING AND REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE WILL TAKE PLACE THEN IN VIEW OF LARGE NUMBER OF SPEAKERS STILL ON LIST. THERE IS THUS POSSIBILITY COMMITTEE HEARINGS MAY HAVE TO BE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. TIME HAD HOPED FOR RULING AND HEARINGS EARLIER, SINCE IT MUST NOW AGONIZE EVEN MORE OVER FUTURE OF EMPLOYEES AND FAILING ADVERTISING REVENUES. POSSIBILITY IS THAT DELAY OF LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE MAY EVEN FORCE TIME IN END TO THROW IN TOWEL, WHICH IT HAS BEEN TRYING HARD TO AVOID. PORTER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

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